



Office of Minority Health

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CDC Guiding Principles on Tribal Consultation

Tribal Consultation Policy Statement

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will honor the sovereignty of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Governments, respect the inherent rights of self governance and commit to work on a government-to-government basis. The CDC will confer with Tribal Governments, Alaska Native Corporations and AI/AN communities, before taking actions and/or making decisions that affect them. Consultation¹ will include non-federally recognized tribes and AI/AN organizations.

CDC Mission

The mission of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury and disability. CDC accomplishes its mission by working with partners throughout the United States and the world to monitor health, detect and investigate health problems, conduct applied research to enhance prevention, develop and advocate sound public health policies, implement prevention strategies, promote healthy behaviors, foster safe and healthful environments, and provide leadership and training.

CDC priorities

- ▶ Strengthen science for public health action
- ▶ Collaborate with health care partners for prevention
- ▶ Promote healthy living at all stages of life
- ▶ Work with partners to improve global health

CDC Tribal Consultation Policy: Plan for Tribal Input

The CDC draft plan called for a series of regional and national meetings at which tribal leaders would provide input to CDC regarding the final formulation of its official tribal consultation policy. During the summer and fall of 2002, Area Health Boards, tribal coalitions, and regional tribal organizations hosted CDC tribal consultation sessions at 11 sites around the country. Tribal leaders, tribal health directors, urban Indian health program representatives, and other tribal members attended these sessions.

Notification: Publicize widely among American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) constituents that the CDC is developing its Tribal Consultation Policy and is seeking AI/AN input regarding the implementation of that policy. Publications to target include, but are not limited to: Indian Country Today; Indian News; NCAI (National Congress of American Indians), NIH (National Indian Health Board), National Council of Urban Indian Health, Regional Area Health Boards, and AIHEC (American Indian Higher Education Consortium) newsletters; Tribal College Journal; tribal health department newsletters; AI/AN websites, etc.

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Develop presentations/workshops: Wherein CDC senior staff have the opportunity to present Agency intentions and solicit input from elected tribal leaders regarding the content, steps, and program needs for CDC's Tribal Consultation Policy.

These presentations/workshops would be held in conjunction with established national and regional AI/AN meetings as outlined below:

National Meetings:

National Congress of American Indians
National Indian Health Board
National Council of Urban Indian Health
Executive Leadership Council of the IHS
National Self-Governance Advisory Committee

Regional Health Board Meetings:

Aberdeen Area
Alaska Area
Albuquerque Area
Billings Area
Bemidji Area
California Area
Nashville Area
Navajo Area
Oklahoma Area
Phoenix Area
Portland Area
Tucson Area

(The CDC will invite **all Tribal leaders and representatives** within the each respective region whether or not they are affiliated with the Area Health Board or National Organization.)

Upon completion of the national/regional meetings, a draft tribal consultation implementation document will be prepared and submitted to tribal governments, NIHB, and NCAI, for review and final comment. Thereafter, the finalized document will be presented to NCAI for final approval by resolution. Once this resolution is enacted, the final document will be published in the Federal Register, posted on appropriate federal and AI/AN websites, and made widely available to AI/AN governments and organizations.

Notes:

¹The Department of Health and Human Service's definition of consultation is, "an enhanced form of communication which emphasizes trust, respect and shared responsibility. It is an open and free exchange of information and opinion among parties which leads to mutual understanding and comprehension. Consultation is integral to a deliberative process which results in effective collaboration and informed decision making."

Last Updated on April 08, 2003
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